

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Ad Hoc Youth Diversity Education Team (YDET)
April 9, 2014 Minutes

The Youth Diversity Education Team of Mesa met on April 9th, 2014,
at 5:00pm at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St. Ste. 250.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tony Liuzzo, Chair
Denise Heap
Karen Frias-Long
Talmage Pearce

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Arenas
Ray Villa

GUESTS

1. Call to Order.

Dr. Liuzzo called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to YDET.

3. Approval of minutes from the March 12th, 2014 YDET meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Pearce to approve the March 12th, 2014 minutes, Ms. Heap seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Hear, discuss and take action on Mesa Police Department's M.E.S.A program.

Mr. Villa, community liaison for the Mesa Police Department (MPD), provided another overview of the M.E.S.A. (Making Every Student Accountable) program, which currently services at-risk students at Kino Jr. High. In response to the request from the board members during the March 12th, 2014 YDET meeting, Mr. Villa provided a summary of expenses to operate the M.E.S.A. program for one year totaling approximately \$56k. The breakdown is as follows: \$30k for 30% of an Officer's time, \$20.6k for 30% of a Youth Intervention Specialist's time, \$1,215 for a course instructor, \$440 for a classroom assistant, \$600 for a translator, and \$3.2k for miscellaneous expenses such as snacks, water, incentives, supplies, etc. Mr. Villa advised that funding for the current year is provided by contributions from the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant, the Police Department budget and donation from the Mesa Sunrise Rotary Club. Mr. Villa also provided the priority list of future schools for the program which include: Carson Jr. High and Rhodes Jr. High (based on past interest from the schools).

Ms. Heap questioned if funding would be available again through the COPS grant. In response, Mr. Villa informed that particular grant was only available for one year however MPD was considering the possibility of pursuing other grants such as one through the Governor's Office for juvenile programs. Mr. Villa suggested the board seek funding through donations from private businesses or other agencies and clubs. Mr. Pearce questioned if there was any way to decrease the amount of time contributed by an Officer to decrease that expense. Mr. Villa advised that an Officer's time will likely remain part of the contribution from MPD because the program's management is only a portion of their overall work detail. Mr. Pearce asked Mr. Villa to invite the Officer or intervention specialist to speak with them at a future meeting. Mr. Villa stated that he could do that or they could arrange for the board members to observe one of the sessions. The board members also asked Mr. Villa to get more information on potential grants and see if any of the expenses could be altered or amended. Mr. Villa advised that he anticipates having more information in the upcoming months given Councils' consideration on the department budget.

5. Hear, discuss, and take action on a sex trafficking education program.

Ms. Heap advised that she has been in contact with Duane Oaks, from Mesa Community College, who has videos, and educational material that can be dispensed to teachers in order to promote sex trafficking awareness. Ms. Heap explained that the first step would likely be training counselors and educators, then if there is enough support and interest from the school system they could implement to the students. A motion was made by Ms. Heap to continue working on and implementing a sex trafficking education program with the help from community contacts. Mr. Pearce seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

6. Hear an update, discuss and take action on Cinema Series program in high schools as means of educating youth on diversity related issues.

Ms. Arenas advised that additional implementation of the Cinema Series continues at Dobson High School and the Library. The board would like to institute the Cinema Series to more schools in the upcoming school year. Ms. Arenas advised that doing so would require assistance and a considerable amount of time from an educator or administrator at each desired school location willing to make arrangements, work with students, etc. Ms. Frias-Long agreed to contact fellow board member Mr. Moon on the best means of continuing the program in other schools and any potential liabilities.

7. Hear, discuss and take action on getting feedback from the Mayor's Youth Committee.

Dr. Liuzzo reminded the members that a meeting will be scheduled with the Mayor's Youth Committee for September in order to gage feedback on best means for reaching youth on diversity education. Ms. Frias-Long questioned if other student bodies have been considered. Dr. Liuzzo stated that team is very eager to hear from as many youth as possible, but determined they would question the Mayor's Youth Committee first. Dr. Liuzzo advised that they could begin a list in the fall of the various youth organizations they would like to contact.

8. Discuss future agenda items, meeting dates, announcements, other housekeeping.

- Next YDET meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 14th, 2014 at 5pm.

Board members agreed to reschedule May's meeting for Wednesday, May 21st, 2014 at 5:30pm.

9. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator